

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-14, 16-18, 20 and 21 are pending. Claims 7 and 19 have been canceled, and Claims 2, 4, 10 and 15 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11-14, 16-18, 20 and 21 are amended herein. Claims 1-6, 8-18, 20 and 21 stand rejected on the merits and are discussed below.

In the Office Action mailed January 26, 2006, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,567,081 to Li et al. ("Li"). Claims 2-6 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Li in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,640,496 to Hardy et al. ("Hardy"). Claims 14, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Li in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,515,673 to Hashimoto et al. ("Hashimoto"). Claims 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Li in combination with Hardy and Hashimoto.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejections, Claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, means for storing the compressed graphic image data in the memory comprising a linked list in the memory, said linked list including a plurality of nodes, wherein each node comprises a flag field for flagging the node as unused if the node does not include compressed graphic image data for the graphic image of interest. As acknowledged in the Office Action, neither Li nor Hashimoto teach or disclose this feature of Claim 1 as amended.

Hardy, for its part, discloses a free list of available nodes 39 that is kept within each memory block 38. See col. 8, lines 18-20. Hardy clearly shows in Fig. 1 that the free list of available nodes 39 is associated with each memory block pointer 32 to a memory block that includes a plurality of nodes that, taken together, form the memory

block 38. Thus, Hardy does not teach or suggest *each node* comprising a flag field for flagging the node as unused as recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable over the references of record.

Furthermore, Claims 9 and 14 have been amended to recite loading the file that includes compressed data for the first area of interest from the storage device into one of a plurality of nodes of a linked list in a memory, wherein the compressed data includes overhead data that defines a geographical extent of the file, wherein the overhead data includes latitude and longitude vertices, wherein each node comprises a flag field. Claim 21 has been amended to include the above discussed limitation of Claim 1. For at least these reasons, Claims 9, 14 and 21 are therefore allowable over the references of record as well.

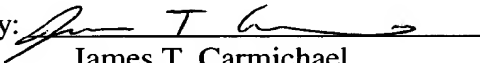
Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T3497-10276US01) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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